

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated,

5       wherein photography notification data is transmitted to a desired imaging device among the plurality of imaging devices to cause the desired imaging device to perform photography notification when causing the plurality of imaging devices to perform a photography operation.

10      2. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 1, wherein one of the plurality of imaging devices transmits the photography notification data.

15      3. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 2, wherein the photography notification data is transmitted based on the photography operation of the one imaging device.

20      4. A device for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated, the device comprising:

photography notification means for transmitting photography notification data to a desired imaging device among the plurality of imaging devices to cause the desired imaging device to perform photography notification when causing the plurality of imaging devices to perform photography operation.

25      5. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 4, being provided in one of the plurality of imaging

devices to be structured.

6. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 5, wherein the photography notification data is transmitted based on the photography operation of the one  
5 imaging device.

7. A program for causing a computer to execute a method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated, the program causing a computer to execute a procedure for:

10 transmitting photography notification data to a desired imaging device among the plurality of imaging devices to cause the desired imaging device to perform photography notification when causing the plurality of imaging devices to perform a photography operation.

15 8. The program according to claim 7, wherein one of the plurality of imaging devices transmits the photography notification data in the procedure to transmit the photography notification data.

9. The program according to claim 8, wherein the  
20 photography notification data is transmitted based on the photography operation of the one imaging device in the procedure to transmit the photography notification data.

10. A method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to  
25 be operated and each of the plurality of imaging devices photographs to acquire image data by one photography operation,

wherein the plurality of image data acquired by the plurality of imaging devices are collectively managed.

11. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 10, wherein a different file name is attached 5 to each of the plurality of image data acquired by the plurality of imaging devices to collectively store the plurality of image data.

12. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 10, wherein the plurality of image data are 10 managed based on photography status information indicating a status of when the plurality of image data are photographed.

13. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 10, wherein one of the plurality of imaging devices manages the plurality of image data.

15 14. A device for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated and each of the plurality of imaging devices photographs to acquire image data by one photography operation, the device comprising:

20 management means for collectively managing the plurality of image data acquired by the plurality of imaging devices.

15. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 14, wherein the management means comprises storage means for attaching a different file name to each of 25 the plurality of image data acquired by the plurality of imaging devices to collectively store the plurality image data.

16. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 14, wherein the management means manages the plurality of image data based on photography status information indicating a status of when the plurality of image data are  
5 photographed.

17. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 14, being provided in one of the plurality of imaging devices.

18. A program for causing a computer to execute a method  
10 for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated and each of the plurality of imaging devices photographs to acquire image data by one photography operation, the program causing a computer to execute a procedure for:

15 collectively managing the plurality of image data acquired by the plurality of imaging devices.

19. The program according to claim 18, further causing a computer to execute a procedure for attaching a different file name to each of the plurality of image data acquired by the  
20 plurality of imaging devices to collectively store the image data.

20. The program according to claim 18, wherein the plurality of image data are managed based on photography status information indicating a status of when the plurality of image  
25 data are photographed in the managing procedure.

21. A method for controlling an imaging device, in which

a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data,

wherein the image data are processed and displayed on display means in accordance with display characteristics of the  
5 display means for displaying the image data.

22. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 21, wherein the processed image data are displayed on one of the plurality of imaging devices.

10 23. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 21, wherein the image data are processed in each of the plurality of imaging devices.

15 24. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 22, wherein the image data are processed in the one imaging device or each of the plurality of imaging devices.

20 25. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 24, wherein whether to process the image data in the one imaging device or each of the plurality of imaging devices is determined in accordance with the display characteristics of the display means of the plurality of imaging devices and/or communication capabilities of the plurality of imaging devices.

25 26. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 21, wherein the display characteristics of the display means include resolution, gradation characteristics, color reproduction characteristics, size and

an aspect ratio.

27. A device for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data, the device comprising:

5           image processing means for processing the image data in accordance with display characteristics of display means for displaying the image data.

28. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 27, wherein the display means is provided  
10       in one of the plurality of imaging devices.

29. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 28, being provided in each of the plurality of imaging devices.

30. The device for controlling an imaging device  
15       according to claim 29, further comprising control means for controlling the image processing means to process the image data in the one imaging device or each of the plurality of imaging devices.

31. The device for controlling an imaging device  
20       according to claim 30, wherein the control means determines whether to process the image data in the one imaging device or each of the plurality of imaging devices in accordance with the display characteristics of the display means of the plurality of imaging devices and/or communication capabilities of the  
25       plurality of imaging devices.

32. The device for controlling an imaging device

according to claim 27, wherein the display characteristics of the display means include resolution, gradation characteristics, color reproduction characteristics, size and an aspect ratio.

5       33. A program for causing a computer to execute a method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data, the program causing a computer to execute a procedure for:

10           processing and displaying the image data on display means in accordance with display characteristics of the display means for displaying the image data.

15       34. A method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data, the method comprising:

accepting storage destination settings of the image data acquired in each of the plurality of imaging devices; and

storing the image data acquired by each of the plurality of imaging devices in the set storage destination.

20       35. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 34, wherein one of the plurality of imaging devices is included as the storage destination.

25       36. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 34, wherein a change in the storage destination is accepted when the image data cannot be stored in the set storage destination.

37. A device for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data, the device comprising:

setting means for accepting storage destination settings  
5 of the image data acquired in each of the plurality of imaging devices; and

storage means for storing the image data acquired by each of the plurality of imaging devices in the set storage destination,

10 wherein the setting means and the storage means are provided in each of the plurality of imaging devices.

38. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 37, wherein one of the plurality of imaging devices is included as the storage destination.

15 39. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 37, wherein the setting means accepts a change in the storage destination when the image data cannot be stored in the set storage destination.

40. A program for causing a computer to execute a method  
20 for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data, the program causing a computer to execute procedures for:

accepting storage destination settings of the image data  
25 acquired in each of the plurality of imaging devices; and  
storing the image data acquired by each of the plurality

of imaging devices in the set storage destinations.

41. The program according to claim 40, wherein one of the plurality of imaging devices is included as the storage destination.

5       42. The program according to claim 40, further causing a computer to execute a procedure for accepting a change in the storage destination when the image data cannot be stored in the set storage destination.

10      43. A method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data,

15      wherein, when a plurality of images represented by the plurality of image data acquired by each of the plurality of imaging devices are displayed on one display means, an image represented by the image data acquired by a desired imaging device and images represented by the image data acquired by other imaging devices are displayed on the display means in different sizes.

20      44. A method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data,

25      wherein, when a plurality of images represented by the plurality of image data acquired by each of the plurality of imaging devices are displayed on one display means, the plurality of images are displayed on the display means in different sizes in accordance with distances between the

plurality of imaging devices and an object.

45. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 43, wherein an image selected from the plurality of displayed images is enlarged and displayed on the display means.

46. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 44, wherein an image selected from the plurality of displayed images is enlarged and displayed on the display means.

10 47. A device for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data, the device comprising:

display control means for displaying an image represented by the image data acquired by a desired imaging device and images represented by the image data acquired by other imaging devices on one display means in different sizes when a plurality of images represented by the plurality of image data acquired by each of the plurality of imaging devices are displayed on the display means.

20 48. A device for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to acquire image data, the device comprising:

display control means for displaying the plurality of images on one display means in different sizes in accordance with distances between the plurality of imaging devices and an object when a plurality of images represented by the plurality

of image data acquired by each of the plurality of imaging devices are displayed on the display means.

49. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 47, wherein the display control means  
5 enlarges and displays an image selected from the plurality of displayed images on the display means.

50. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 48, wherein the display control means enlarges and displays an image selected from the plurality of  
10 displayed images on the display means.

51. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 47, being provided in one of the plurality of imaging devices.

52. The device for controlling an imaging device  
15 according to claim 48, being provided in one of the plurality of imaging devices.

53. A program for causing a computer to execute a method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to  
20 acquire image data, the program causing a computer to execute a procedure for:

displaying an image represented by the image data acquired by a desired imaging device and images represented by the image data acquired by other imaging devices on one display  
25 means in different sizes when a plurality of images represented by the plurality of image data acquired by each of the plurality

of imaging devices are displayed on the display means.

54. A program for causing a computer to execute a method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices are associated via a network to be operated to  
5 acquire image data, the program causing a computer to execute a procedure for:

displaying the plurality of images on one display means in different sizes in accordance with distances between the plurality of imaging devices and an object when a plurality of  
10 images represented by the plurality of image data acquired by each of the plurality of imaging devices are displayed on the display means.

55. The program according to claim 53, further causing a computer to execute a procedure for enlarging and displaying  
15 an image selected from the plurality of displayed images on the display means.

56. The program according to claim 54, further causing a computer to execute a procedure for enlarging and displaying an image selected from the plurality of displayed images on the  
20 display means.

57. A method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices, comprising clocks and attaching photography date/time data to image data acquired by photographing, are associated via a network to be operated,  
25 wherein times indicated by the clocks of all the imaging devices are synchronized with a predetermined time.

58. The method for controlling an imaging device according to claim 57, wherein the synchronization is performed based on a predetermined operation of one of the plurality of imaging devices.

5 59. A device for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices, comprising clocks and attaching photography date/time data to image data acquired by photographing, are associated via a network to be operated, the device comprising:

10 timer means for synchronizing times indicated by the clocks of all the imaging devices with a predetermined time.

60. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 59, wherein the timer means performs the synchronization based on a predetermined operation of one of  
15 the plurality of imaging devices.

61. The device for controlling an imaging device according to claim 59, being provided in each of the plurality of imaging devices.

62. A program for causing a computer to execute a method for controlling an imaging device, in which a plurality of imaging devices, comprising clocks and attaching photography date/time data to image data acquired by photographing, are associated via a network to be operated, the program causing a computer to execute a procedure for:

25 synchronizing times indicated by the clocks of all the imaging devices with a predetermined time.

63. The program according to claim 62, wherein the synchronization is performed based on a predetermined operation of one of the plurality of imaging devices in the synchronization procedure.